

City of Madison

Minutes of Regular Meeting

July 16th, 2018

Call to Order: Mayor Paul Dean called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Council members present: Samantha Watts, Daryl May, Nick Cherry, and Earl Murphy.

City Employees Present: City Clerk, Victoria Stewart and City Treasurer, Michael Bartlow.

Public: Tammy Seimears with The Madison News, Jody Thomas, Sheriff Heath Samuels, Deputy Christian Powell, Deputy Taylor Ratcliff, Sandy Schawe, Jordan Schawe, Jayton Wallace, and USD 386 Superintendent Stu Mocckel.

Approval of Agenda: First motion made by Samantha. Nick seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Paul Dean led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes of Meeting for July 2nd, 2018: Nick made the first motion of approval. Samantha seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Accounts Payable: Nick made the first motion. Samantha seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Open Forum

Jim and Teresa Ludwig did not attend the meeting, however, Nick Cherry and Earl Murphy spoke on their behalf. Nick stated that the Ludwigs were concerned with the possibility of the City widening Second Street in the future. Earl Murphy agreed, saying that widening the road would take out a large portion of their yard. Mayor Paul Dean said that he still thought it was a good idea to look into it and that there may be other ways to widen it without interfering with Jim and Teresa's property.

Heath Samuels approached the board, first introducing the Greenwood Sheriff Department's new Deputy, Christian Powell. He then expressed his interest in using the old Madison News building, located next to City Hall, as an office for the Sheriff's Department. Mayor Paul Dean informed Heath that this has already been approved and he is welcome to move into the building at any time. He also told the Sheriff that water and sewer would be paid for by the City. Heath was also informed that the Rec Commission will be using the back of the building for storage, but his office would be inaccessible from the back.

Sandy Schawe spoke to the Council concerned with the 2019 budget. She voiced her opinion that taxes were too high, and the mill levy needed to be dropped as promised. She expressed that the City needs to look for alternative ways to save money and generate revenue other than taxes. She also voiced her frustration of not being able to sell her house because taxes were too high. This matter was discussed further during the Governing Body's 2019 budget decision.

Clerk & Treasurer Reports

City Treasurer, Michael Bartlow, presented June 2018's Financial Report. He reminded the Council that in 2019 and 2020 all debts will be paid off and that Special Highway was still in a negative balance, but as discussed before, is not a concern and will correct itself.

Reports from the Governing Body

Michael Bartlow presented two budget proposals that were discussed at the last meeting, one maintaining the mill levy and the other dropping it to 99.701. Earl Murphy continued the discussion by handing out documents listing the costs of street work and sewer maintenance that the City is responsible for. He stressed to the Council and to the public present at the meeting the need to continue with street and sewer work, and that he was worried dropping the mill levy will affect this fact negatively. He was concerned about the sewer system especially, as there is still 12,000-14,000 feet of sewer left to line at \$32.00 per foot. Paul Dean intervened and said that if the mill levy is dropped, there will still be more money than before due to increased valuation. He continued, saying that the mill levy hasn't been under 100 in 30 years, and it has been discussed before to get it lower because the high rate inhibits growth. He then suggested bringing it down to 99.701. Murphy replied that sewer and water rates could be raised to generate more revenue. Paul said that the City does have some of the lowest rates compared to other communities and this was an option to look at. He then brought up Sandy's comments during Open Forum, stating that she was correct in her opinion that the City should start looking at ways to save more money and to increase value. Daryl, Samantha, and Nick all stated that they were for lowering the mill levy to 99.701. Earl disagreed. Nick made the first motion to approve the 99.701 mill levy. Daryl seconded. Motion carried 3-1 with Murphy voting no. The Budget Hearing was set for August 6th, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. during the next Council meeting.

The Council discussed the land that Dollar General is located on and which portions belonged to the company and which belonged to the Barnards and who was responsible for mowing the strip of land along the highway. It was determined that the section discussed was the Dollar General's and their responsibility.

Paul Dean proposed a \$25.00 research fee and a 25 cent per copy fee for Open Records Requests. Nick Cherry made the first motion of approval. Samantha seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Earl provided quotes to the Council on how much it would cost to haul off the trailer on Sherman. He stated an \$800.00 quote for the haul and a \$250.00 quote from the Emporia dump to take the trailer. The Council decided that if the owner of the trailer was interested in having it hauled off, the City would do the work if the owner paid the costs up front. Earl also updated the Council on the Fire Barn door, that it was replaced and in good shape. Paul Dean reported that people are starting to show an interest in building on the land south of the old Manor and would like to start looking at costs of getting new water and sewer hook-ups installed. Samantha Watts brought up the land on 3rd street that the owners want to donate to a non-profit organization, informing everyone that the Healthier Greenwood County Coalition is looking for a new coordinator, and it would be up to the new coordinator on taking over the land. Earl reported that work will begin Thursday on fixing the damage caused by the trash trucks on McKinley and 4th St.

Adjournment

Daryl made the first motion to adjourn. Samantha seconded. Motion carried 4-0.